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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 265  
By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION To congratulate Joe Bridges, Ripley High School  
Baseball Coach, upon his 500<sup>th</sup> victory.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those athletes and coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, One such estimable citizen is Coach Joe Bridges of Ripley High School; on April 4, 2001, he captured his 500<sup>th</sup> career victory as a coach; and

WHEREAS, The 3-2 win over Middleton High School marked the climax of the latest successful chapter in Coach Bridges' accomplished career; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable achievement required his averaging twenty-five wins per season for over twenty seasons; and

WHEREAS, Since beginning his coaching career in the 1970s, Coach Bridges has won much acclaim for his unsurpassed skill as a teacher of sport; his name has become virtually

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synonymous with the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association's "Coach of the Year" award; and

WHEREAS, A charter member of the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association, he has been the coach of choice for numerous prestigious all-star games, and he has led his teams to multiple TSSAA State Tournaments; and

WHEREAS, After working at Adamsville High School for many years, Coach Joe Bridges relocated to Ripley High School's ballpark in 1998; in only four years, he has brought the Ripley squad to statewide prominence; and

WHEREAS, His teams at Ripley High have claimed numerous tournament championships, including the 1999 Absorbent's Unlimited Tournament, the 2000 Paducah Baseball Classic, and four consecutive Tom Cat Classics; and

WHEREAS, Long known in the baseball community for his wisdom and leadership, Coach Bridges now utilizes those talents as Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Ripley High School; he has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and students alike for the unsurpassed quality of his service; and

WHEREAS, The Fraternal Order of Police's "Man of the Year" for 2000, Coach Bridges is committed to the highest ideals of family and community values; he is the proud and devoted father of two daughters, Megan Allison and Karen Ashley; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his outstanding career, Coach Joe Bridges has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his student athletes to reach their potential; he exemplifies the unquestioned character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach Joe Bridges for his honorable and astute

service to the young athletes of this State and join with his family, friends, players, and fans in celebrating his 500<sup>th</sup> career victory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.